

### Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A tire having at least one rubber component wherein said component is comprised of a vulcanizable rubber composition comprising:

(A) 100 parts by weight of at least one diene-based elastomer wherein selected from the group consisting of natural or synthetic cis 1,4-polyisoprene rubber, 3,4-polyisoprene rubber, styrene/butadiene copolymer rubbers, isoprene/butadiene copolymer rubbers, styrene/isoprene copolymer rubbers, styrene/isoprene/butadiene terpolymer rubbers, cis 1,4-polybutadiene rubber and medium to high vinyl polybutadiene rubber having a vinyl 1,2- content in a range of about 15 to about 85 percent and emulsion polymerization prepared butadiene/acrylonitrile copolymers;

(B) from about 1 to about 60 phr of a starch/synthetic plasticizer composite; and

(C) from about 0.1 to about 10 phr of an adduct of maleic anhydride and polybutadiene.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 1, wherein said adduct of maleic anhydride and polybutadiene has a number average molecular weight of from about 1,500 to about 10,000.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 1, wherein said adduct of maleic anhydride and polybutadiene has a number average molecular weight of from about 2,500 to about 7,500.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 1, wherein said adduct of maleic anhydride and polybutadiene has an average of from about 2 to about 20 functional groups based on maleic anhydride per polymer chain.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 1, wherein said adduct of maleic anhydride and polybutadiene has an average of from about 3 to about 12 functional groups based on maleic anhydride per polymer chain.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 1, wherein said adduct of maleic anhydride and polybutadiene is present in a range of from about 0.4 to about 8 phr.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 1, wherein said starch/synthetic plasticizer composite comprises starch composed of amylose units and amylopectin units in a ratio of about 15/85 to about 35/65, and has a softening point according to ASTM No. D1228 in a range of about 180°C to about 220°C, provided, ~~however,~~ that said starch/plasticizer composite has a softening point in a range of about 110 to about 160°C according to ASTM No. D1228.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 1, wherein said starch/synthetic plasticizer composite comprises a plasticizer that is a liquid at 23°C and is selected from at least one of poly(ethylenevinyl alcohol), cellulose acetate and plasticizers based, at least in part, upon diesters of dibasic organic acids and forms said starch/plasticizer composite having a softening point in a range of about 110 to about 160°C when combined with said starch in a weight ratio in a range of about 1/1 to about 3/1.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 1 wherein said starch/synthetic plasticizer composite comprises a plasticizer having a softening point of less than the said starch and less than 160°C and is selected from at least one of poly(ethylenevinyl alcohol), cellulose acetate and copolymers, and hydrolyzed copolymers, of ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers having a vinyl acetate molar content of from about 5 to about 90, alternatively about 20 to about 70, percent, ethylene-glycidal acrylate copolymers and ethylene-maleic anhydride copolymers.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 1, wherein said at least one diene elastomer is selected from the group consisting of homopolymers of isoprene and 1,3-butadiene and copolymers of isoprene and/or 1,3-butadiene with a aromatic vinyl compound selected from at least one of styrene and alphamethylstyrene.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 1, further comprising from about 20 to about 85 phr of carbon black.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 1, further comprising from about 10 to about 85 phr of silica.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The tire of claim [13] 1, wherein said component is a tire tread.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 1, wherein said adduct of maleic anhydride and polybutadiene has a glass transition temperature in a range of from about -70°C to about 0°C.